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description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

Please add the following paragraph immediately after line 18, page 2:

B²
The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings which are given by way of illustration only, and thus are not limitative of the present invention, and wherein:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B³
Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an absorbent article according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁴
Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along line I-I of Fig. 1, and viewed in a direction as indicated by arrows;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁵
Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing an absorbent article according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B4 Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line V-V of Fig. 3, and viewed in a direction as indicated by arrows;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B7 Fig. 5 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B8 Fig. 6 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B9 Fig. 7 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B10 Fig. 8 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B11 Fig. 9 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B12 Fig. 10 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B13 Fig. 11 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B14 Fig. 12 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B15 Cns. B17 Fig. 13 is a sectional view, corresponding to Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, showing an absorbent article according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

B16 Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Cns. B3 Almost an entire surface of the absorbent sheet 31 is overlaid on the top layer 10, and the absorbent sheet 31 and the top layer 10 are folded integrally. The above-mentioned barrier cuffs 40, 40 are formed by the absorbent sheet 31 and the top layer 10.

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In other words, the absorbent article includes means for attaching the top layer 10 to the liquid retentive member 30 (the absorbent sheet 31). The overlaid structure of the absorbent sheet 31 and top sheet 10 may be achieved by attachment using an adhesive agent or heat sealing, aside from a simple placement of the top layer 10 upon the absorbent sheet 31. The barrier cuffs 40, 40 are located apart from each other and the above-mentioned pocket portion 50 is formed therebetween. The absorbent member 30 (the absorbent sheet 31) includes means for attaching portions adjacent the barrier cuffs 40,40 (i.e. portions which are located outside the barrier cuffs 40,40) to the back layer 20. The barrier cuffs 40,40 are spaced apart from the back layer 20. The means for attaching the portions adjacent the barrier cuffs 40, 40 to the back layer 20 includes at least one of an adhesive agent and heat sealing.

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Please add the following paragraph immediately after line 12, page 25

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 12-14 and 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.